

Promise Keeping

Revive

Hebrews 6:13-20

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

...we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. 19 We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

REFLECTION

The author of Hebrews wants us to understand that God not only makes promises, but keeps those promises too. Just as we as a community make a promise to be a part of each child's formation at their baptism, we keep that promise when we follow up with actions. Lives are transformed when promises are not only made, but kept. ***Think about when a promise was made and kept by someone in your life. How was your life transformed? Are you as good as being a promise keeper as a promise maker?***

The audience of Hebrews is Christians who were early converts to Judaism. For their clarity, the author shows them the uniqueness of Jesus through the lens of the Old Testament. This is why the Old Testament priest Melchizedek is presented as an example of how to understand Jesus and live with hope (v.20). Read the story of Melchizedek from [these four verses of Genesis 14](#). ***What parallels do you see between Melchizedek and the life and ministry of Jesus?***

- 1) Melchizedek means "king of righteousness"
- 2) His name references his status as both king and high priest, traditionally two separate roles
- 3) He serves as the king and high priest of Salem, the origins of the holy city of Jerusalem
- 4) He pursues Abram, offers him bread and wine, and reminds him it is God who brought him victory

Abram's response to Melchizedek's blessing is to give him 10% of all he owned. Though Abram provided the armies who rescued his nephew Lot, his gift to Melchizedek demonstrates that he knew God provided the resources for victory, rather than of his own power. God doesn't promise us that if we're good enough tough times won't befall us. Instead, his promise is that suffering won't be the end of our story. ***What are the blessings and successes in your story that you had no ability to control? Are you living yet with the joy, freedom, and liberation that comes with releasing your burdens and trusting God to keep his promises?***

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for your faithfulness. May we respond in joy, and may hope radiate from us. Amen